

## **Thief River Falls School District EL Program Overview**

### *Program Philosophy*

The Thief River Falls School District offers an educational program to meet the needs of students who are English Learners (EL) in grades K-12. This program, known as English as a Second Language (ESL), addresses two areas: Language acquisition and cultural adjustment.

The goal of the EL program is to assist English learners with the development of their communication skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, thereby enabling them to be successful in the academic mainstream classroom as well as their social and extracurricular activities.

The EL program will assist English learners through their cultural adjustment by helping them develop an understanding of American culture. At the same time, students will be encouraged to share their cultural backgrounds and realize the importance of their role in a multicultural society.

### *Elementary Program*

EL services in the elementary school are provided through a pull-out program. EL schedules are coordinated with the classroom teacher so that the student is not removed during important lesson presentation/instructional time, or during specials (i.e., phy.ed., music). The EL teacher plans lessons/activities to address the language acquisition and academic needs of each student.

Student progress is communicated throughout the school year through parent/teacher conferences and progress reports at grading time. New students indicating a primary language other than English on the Home Language Questionnaire, are assessed for English proficiency using the Stanford English Language Proficiency Test. All EL students are required to take MN state EL tests; Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA); as well as any other district required assessments.

### *Middle School and High School Program*

EL services at the Middle School and High School levels are provided within the student's regular class schedule. One or more class periods each day are designated as EL classes, depending on the language needs of the student.

Student progress is communicated throughout the year through parent/teacher conferences, progress reports, and grade reports. All EL students participate in the required MN state EL tests; Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA); as well as any other district required assessments.